

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INT-05 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /051 W

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FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2127

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN SL

SUBJECT: INQUIRY RE JAMES SALINAS

REF: LONDON 17105

1. EMBASSY INFORMED BY VARIOUS LOCAL SOURCES THAT SALINAS HAS BEEN IN FREETOWN HOLDING OUT PROSPECT SOME SORT OF DEAL THAT MIGHT LEAD TO FORMATION OF GROUP TO RESURRECT DELCO IRON MINE AT MARAMPA, NOW IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION (FREETOWN 2459). SALINAS HAS NOT VISITED EMBASSY AND EMBASSY HAS NO HARD INFORMATION, BUT REPORTS FROM LOCAL SOURCES INDICATE THAT SALINAS, CLAIMING TO BE GREEK-AMERICAN AND LINKED TO NORWEGIAN SHIPPING INTERESTS OF SOME SORT, APPEARS TO BE PRIMARILY IN SHIPPING BUSINESS AND IS HINTING OF CONNECTIONS WITH CYPRUS MINES AND, BY EXTENSION, MARCONA.

2. SALINAS APPEARS TO HAVE BECOME INVOLVED THROUGH FREE-WHEELING ACTIVITIES OF SL ATTORNEY GENERAL SOLOMON PRATT AND HAS BEEN GIVEN STRONG SUPPORT BY SL HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LONDON, DR. RALPH TAYLOR-SMITH. ACCORDING LOCAL BRITISH BUSINESSMAN, WHO IS ONE OF THREE PEOPLE APPOINTED AS LIQUIDATORS FOR DELCO, SALINAS INCORPORATED A NEW FIRM IN LONDON IN LATE OCTOBER FOR PURPOSE PUSHING DEAL INVOLVING

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DELCO. SOME SOURCES SUGGEST HIS MAIN AIM IS PROBABLY LAY

GROUNDWORK FOR ESTABLISHMENT WITHIN SL OF SHIPPING REGISTRATION SYSTEM ON "FLAG OF CONVENIENCE" BASIS.

3. APPEAR BE MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT SALINAS AND HIS CONTACTS. LOCAL BRITISH BUSINESSMAN CITED ABOVE CONSIDERS SALINAS IS PROBABLY A PURE FIVE-PERCENTER, SEEKING LICENSE TO GO SHOPPING FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL BACKING BUT WITH NO REAL CAPABILITY OR SOLID CONTACTS IN MINING FIELD.

4. EMBASSY FREETOWN WOULD APPRECIATE REMAINING INFO ADDRESSEE ON ANY CABLE TRAFFIC THIS SUBJECT. ALTHOUGH GOSL HAS OVERTLY REFRAINED FROM APPROACHING EMBASSY CONCERNING SALINAS, THEY MAY DO SO AT ANY TIME.
SAMUELS

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Message Attributes

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